

NEW COMBINATION IN *SALIX* (SALICACEAE)

Guy L. Nesom

Botanical Research Institute of Texas
509 Pecan Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

Dorn (1998; following Cronquist 1964) has treated *Salix interior* Rowlee at infraspecific rank within *S. exigua* Nutt., observing that a broad region of morphological intergradation exists between the two where their ranges are in contact (see Dorn's Fig. 2, p. 200). This observation is confirmed in field studies relating to a floristic inventory of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area in Hutchinson, Moore, and Potter counties of the north-central Texas panhandle (Nesom & O'Kennon in progress). In this area many populations exist of *S. interior* sensu stricto (colonial shrubs with completely glabrous, linear-lanceolate leaves with widely spaced and elongate teeth) as well as *S. exigua* (similar to *S. interior* but with densely silky-sericeous lower leaf surfaces). Also common are populations with foliar vestiture in varying degrees of intermediacy (e.g., Nesom & O'Kennon LM359, LM198 - BRIT). *Salix nigra* Marsh and *S. amygdaloides* Anderss. also commonly occur in the area, apparently without intergrades.

Argus (1986) treated *Salix exigua* as including *S. interior* without formal rank, but he noted (p. 91) that the "eastern phase (*S. interior*) differs from the western phase (*S. exigua*) in having leaves less densely sericeous, more distinctly toothed, and more veiny." In my observation (based on BRIT and VDB collections), variability in vestiture is greater in the western phase than in the eastern phase, where the green-glabrous leaves are consistently evident. Sericeous undersurfaces are characteristic of the western phase.

Dorn recognized three varieties within *Salix exigua* subsp. *exigua* but treated *S. interior* only at subspecific rank: *S. exigua* subsp. *interior* (Rowlee) Cronquist. The following combination provides consistent nomenclatural recognition of all infraspecific taxa, following ICBN Article 4.1: "The secondary ranks of taxa in descending sequence are tribe (tribus) between family and genus, section (sectio) and series (series) between genus and species, and variety (varietas) and form (forma) below species" (see commentary in Turner & Nesom, Sida 19:257-262. 2000).

Salix exigua* var. *sericans (Nees) Nesom, comb. nov. BASIONYM: *Salix longifolia* var. *sericans* Nees in Wied-Neuw., Reise Nord-America 2:448. 1841. TYPE: not seen.

This is the oldest available name at varietal rank for plants identified as *Salix interior*. As noted by Dorn (1994, p. 92), the type locality apparently is "in or near the present Cass Co., Nebraska" (eastern Nebraska, well within the range of typical *S. interior* and east of the area of its co-occurrence with *S. exigua* var.

exigua, although the epithet implies that the leaves probably were not completely glabrous.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Comments by George Diggs and an anonymous reviewer are appreciated.

REFERENCES

- ARGUS, G.W. 1986. The genus *Salix* (Salicaceae) in the southeastern United States. Syst. Bot. Monogr. 9:1–170.
- CRONQUIST, A. 1964. *Salix*. Vasc. Pl. Pacific Northw. 2:37–71.
- DORN, R.D. 1994. North American *Salix* (Salicaceae): typifications and notes. Phytologia 77:89–95.
- DORN, R.D. 1998. A taxonomic study of *Salix* section *Longifoliae* (Salicaceae). Brittonia 50:193–210.